

## **ABSTRACT**

A surveillance system and method is provided for detecting an event and then capturing an image of the event under low illumination conditions. A camera captures a current image and a prior reference image under low illumination conditions using a long exposure time and compares the current and reference images to determine whether an event has occurred in the current image. An illumination source is activated upon the detection of an event to provide artificial illumination. The illumination allows an additional event image to be captured using a shorter exposure time.